TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
FIELD FORCE

Miami, Florida
OFFICE 2320
ADDRESS: P. O. LOCK BOX NO.

December 30, 1963

Mr. James J. Rowley,
Chief, U. S. Secret Service,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Re: President's Visit to Miami, Fla. on November 18, 1963, to address the Inter-American Press Association

Reference is made to Final Survey Report dated December 11, 1963, submitted by Special Agent L. F. de Freese (Office 1-16), relating to the captioned visit of the President to Miami, Florida.

Submitted as an appendix to the referenced report is the following information relating to Protective Research.

PROTECTIVE RESEARCH

Upon receipt of official notice of the President's scheduled visit to Miami, Florida, on November 18, 1963, a representative of the Miami office personally met with official representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Miami, as well as the Central Intelligence Agency, and discussed with them those areas of intelligence pertinent to the general security survey, and established liaison for the free flow of intelligence information of interest to the United States Secret Service.

Official contact was also established with intelligence units of local police departments, as well as with sources of confidential information integrated within the Cuban community of Miami, Florida.

At the suggestion of Mr. G. Harvey Suga, Acting Director, Office of the Coordinator of Cuban Affairs, Miami, his office offered to make available all information of interest to this Service received by them from the areas involving the Cuban element in Miami, Florida.

On November 8, 1963, Mr. Richard B. Yager, Public Service Coordinator, The Miami Herald, Miami, Florida, made available to this office a list of members of the Inter American Press Association expected to attend the scheduled function, including the head table and near-head table guests, as well as the IAPA delegates, associates, observers, and invited guests. A copy of the above list was forwarded to the Protective Research Section.

Through Mr. Charles A. Bogdahn, General Manager of the Americana Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida, a list containing 61 names of permanent employees of the Americana Hotel, as well as a list containing 20 names of extra employees furnished by the Hotel Employees Union Local 255, all of whom were expected to have access to areas in the proximity of the President, were furnished to this office for appropriate clearance. All of the permanent employees of the Americana Hotel were found to have police clearance. (See attached list). From the list of names submitted by the Hotel Employees Union Local 255, Joseph Sestock and Jose Trisna were found to have police records and they were removed from the list. They were replaced by Jack Schanis and Leon Freedman, who were subsequently cleared.

From a confidential source, whose reliability is unknown, information was received indicating that two dissident, unidentified members of Cuban Brigade 2506 were planning to embarrass the President by demanding that the flag of Brigade 2506, which was presented to the President at the Orange Bowl, be returned to them by the President. (The above information was subsequently confirmed by 3-11-14).

The last known information regarding the flag of Brigade 2506 is that it was returned by President Kennedy several months ago by donating it to the Cuban Officers at Fort Benning, Georgia, for the Officers Club.

Investigation disclosed that the dissident Brigade 2506 member planning to demand the return of the flag was Carlos Miranda (LNU), commonly known as "El Soldado Miranda" (Soldier Miranda). Miranda allegedly was being directed by Dr. Felipe Rivero, 1602 Micanopy Avenue, Bay Heights, Miami, Florida, and was receiving instructions from Dr. Rivero in learning, in English, the exact speech which Miranda should use in demanding the return of the flag.

Conferences were held with Juan Jose Pampero Rodriguez, President; Andres Aurelio Sasaola Poza, Vice-Director of Organization; and Reicilio Sorondo Quintana, Director of Foreign Relations, officers of Brigade 2506, relative to the purported intentions of Carlos Miranda and they advised that Miranda was not authorized to represent Brigade 2506 in any capacity and that they would utilize the services of approximately 900 members of the Brigade to locate Miranda and prevent him from representing himself as a spokesman for the Brigade.

Repeated efforts to contact Dr. Felipe Rivero for interview were unsuccessful. Continued efforts by sources of this Service, as well as CIS and members of Brigade 2506 failed to disclose the whereabouts of Carlos Miranda, and it was later disclosed that Miranda had remained in hiding. Members of Brigade 2506 were present during the President's speech at Miami International Airport, as well as outside the Americana Hotel at Miami Beach, and Miranda was not known to have made an appearance during the President's visit.

From a confidential source of this Service, a publisher of anti-Castro propaganda, it was learned that Diaz Lanz, a Cuban political extremist and former Brigade 2506 member, might attempt to approach the President to embarrass him publicly. Diaz Lanz allegedly attacked President Kennedy verbally at a Cuban rally in New York City on November 3, 1963. The latter could not be verified.

Diaz Lanz was subsequently identified as Pedro Luis Diaz-Lanz, born in Cuba on November 8, 1926, a pilot, who currently resides at 120 SW 71st Ave., Miami, Fla. His Immigration Service number is A 10 176 250.

Through Mr. Charles Yeager, Intelligence Officer, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Miami, Florida, arrangements were made to have Diaz-Lanz report for interview by that agency during the time the President was in Miami. Mr. Charles Yeager subsequently confirmed that when Diaz-Lanz was requested to report to their office for interview on November 13, 1963, he informed them that he was leaving for New York City on the morning of November 18, 1963, the same date of the President's scheduled arrival at Miami, Florida.

On the evening of November 17, 1963, Dr. Emilio Nunez Portuondo was a guest speaker at a Cuban rally held in Bayfront Park, Miami, Florida, in honor of Jose Ignacio Rivero, now an exile in Miami, and the former owner and publisher of Diario La Marina in Havana, Cuba. The above rally was attended by approximately 6,000 to 8,000 Cubans. The above rally was covered by this Service in an effort to determine whether there would be any adverse reaction pursuant to the pending visit of the President on the following day.

During his speech, Dr. Portuondo bitterly attacked the United States, stating, among his other comments, that "the blood of the people who have been shot at the 'wall' will remain forever as a black mark for this hemisphere" and "that the cry of pain of all those who suffered in Cuba will be heard from the mountains of America to the Andes, and will be recorded in history as proof that once America was cowardly". It was observed that Pedro Luis Diaz-Lanz was seated among the guest speakers at the above rally. Diaz-Lanz was not observed in any areas the President visited on November 18, 1963.

From a confidential source of this office, information was received that Orlando Bosch, head of the Movimiento Insurreccional de Recuperacion Revolucionaria (MIRR), was planning to picket the President by using widows of Cuban fighters dressed in black. The above information was confirmed in a telephone call received from the Chief's Office on November 14, 1963, wherein was stated that "Orlando Bosch Avila, Chief of Movimiento Insurreccional de Recuperacion Revolucionaria, is planning to picket President Kennedy on 18th November. Picketa plan to use widows of Cuban resistance fighters dressed in black and carrying placards." (Message MIR 8225).

Orlando Bosch Avila, born in Cuba on August 18, 1926, entered Miami, Florida, on July 28, 1960, and is assigned Immigration Service No. A 11 331 310. He is currently employed as a pediatrician for the Dade County Public Health Service, and resides at 2121 SW 11th Street, Miami, Florida.

Orlando Bosch Avila was personally interviewed at his residence relative to the information received and he denied the allegations. Bosch was informed that he would be held personally responsible for any adverse incident which might result due to their planned demonstrations. He gave his assurance there would be no picketing or other demonstrations by his organization. No representation by the MIRR was observed during the President's visit.

In the Miami Herald of November 14, 1963, a brief article appeared under the Latin Section indicating that a group of Cuban refugees would demonstrate at the Americana Hotel when the President arrived to address the Inter-American Press Association.

The information alleged in the newspaper article was traced to Manuel Artime's Revolutionary Recovery Movement (MRR), formerly Civilian Head of Brigade 2506. Personal interview of Sixto R. Mesa, Financial Secretary of MRR, failed to confirm the newspaper article. Mr. Mesa gave his assurance that no demonstrations or other representation had been authorized by his organization and none would occur.

From an unidentified source information was received that widows of deceased Cubans, and wives of Cuban political prisoners, would hold a rally at Bayfront Park, Miami, Florida, during the President's visit on November 18, 1963, where one would be selected to sacrifice herself by burning in protest of President Kennedy's policies toward Cuba.

The above information was subsequently confirmed through information received from 3-11-14, which indicated that a telephone campaign was being carried out by unknown persons who have requested that Cuban women proceed to the Miami Friendship Torch on the afternoon of 18 November where certain Cuban widows plan to set themselves afire in protest to the inactivity of the Kennedy Administration in the Cuban case.

The persons planning the above demonstration remained unidentified, and the alleged demonstration was not held.

From the Intelligence Unit of the Miami Police Department, information was received that Enrique Llaca, Jr., as well as Roberto Torres Fernandez, Antonio Franco, Rene Gutierrez Quintanilla, and Raul Artiles, all dissident members of Brigade 2506, were planning to recruit Cubans to demonstrate during the President's visit. The above information was subsequently confirmed by 3-11-14, who reported that Enrique Llaca, Jr. is behind the move to harass the President at all possible points on his local itinerary by having Cubans show up dressed in mourning for the "broken promises" of the Orange Bowl." Llaca allegedly was engaged in a house to house campaign in an effort to recruit volunteer demonstrators.

Enrique Llasa, Jr. and Rene Gutierrez Quintanilla were summoned into the Intelligence Unit of the Miami Police Department and they were admonished to refrain from any hostile demonstrations.

Official members of Brigade 2506 were re-interviewed relative to Enrique Llasa, Jr. and his dissident group and they advised that Llasa was not authorized to use the name of Brigade 2506 in any manner, and added that the Brigade members would utilize their own resources to admonish and prevent Llasa from adverse demonstrations during the President's visit. Llasa or any of his group were not observed at any of the sites the President visited during his stay in Miami, Florida.

A typewritten Postal Card, dated and postmarked at Miami Beach, Florida, November 16, 1963, addressed to the Chief of Police, Miami, Florida, was received by that department and subsequently surrendered to the Intelligence Unit of the Metropolitan Police Department for investigation. The post card reads: "The Cuban Commandos have the BOMBS ready for killing JFK and Mayor KING HIGH either at the AIRPORT or at the Convention Hall. A Catholic PADRE is going to give instructions at the Cuban Women Broadcast at 8:45 tonight by "RELOJ RADIO" and then all are invited to dance at Bayfront Park Auditorium and take along a BOTTLE of wine, Whiskey, ETC., to decide who will throw the bombs. At King High because he did sign the Cd. about bad drivers being only American Citizens and sending refugees army, Etc. Mary".

On November 19, 1963, the Criminal Intelligence Section, Public Safety Department, Miami, Florida, reported that studies of the typewriting on the card reveal that the typewriting was executed on a Royal Typewriter, pica type, with serial numbers near the 4,000,000 series. On November 22, 1963, the same department reported that the card was written on a Royal Typewriter manufactured between 1947 and 1949. Nothing further has been developed leading to the identity of the person writing the card.

During the week prior to the President's scheduled visit to Miami on November 18, 1963, the Spanish language radio commentators over Radios WMIE and WFAB, Miami, as well as the Spanish language reporter over Channel 4 TV, Miami, began exhorting the Cuban people to demonstrate during the President's visit by carrying placards or by wearing black dress or armbands as a sign of mourning; others asked that an attitude of silence and mourning be adopted to show disgust for unfulfilled promises.

As reports of contemplated adverse demonstrations began to increase, received from sources of this Service, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency, arrangements were made for a conference with representatives of CIA and this Service in order to avail this office with the assets at their disposal.

On November 15, 1963, a conference was held in this office with representatives of 3-11-14. They advised they would utilize all of their assets in the areas to be visited by the President, as well as for surveillance of Enrique Llasa and his group, and Pedro Luis Diaz-Lanz.

The 3-11-14 representatives also advised that they would use their resources to reverse the trend to demonstrate as suggested by the Spanish language radio commentators.

On November 16, 1963, Mr. G. Harvey Sum, Acting Director, Office of the Coordinator of Cuban Affairs, Miami, Florida, advised that he had contacted Arthur G. Gilbert, Federal Communications Commission, Miami, Florida, and requested him to admonish the responsible authorities of Spanish language radio in Miami to restrict their Spanish language commentators from making irresponsible comments or suggestions to the Cuban people during their broadcasts. The above was subsequently discussed further with Mr. Gilbert by a representative of this Service.

On November 17, 1963, 3-11-14 reported that responsible Cuban exile organizations in Miami have urged their compatriots to refrain from unruly demonstrations when President Kennedy arrived on November 18. They further reported that Radio WAQI, Miami, called on refugees to turn out to applaud the President, saying that although there have been differences in opinion, now is the time to demonstrate unity for democracy. Radio Station WFAB on a commentary by Manolo Del Canal, stated that he is opposed to hostile demonstrations against the President, and does not exhort the exile in that direction.

3-11-14 further reported that the exile community is calm, and a massive demonstration was unlikely.

In reversing the trend to demonstrate, as previously contemplated by the exiled Cubans, the significance of the change is attributed to the efforts expounded by 3-11-14. It had been previously estimated that approximately 20,000 Cubans would make an appearance at the Miami International Airport at the President's arrival. An unofficial estimate of approximately 3,000 persons, including Cubans, were present at the President's arrival at Miami International Airport.

No hostile demonstrations by Cubans, either as individual groups or representatives of organizations, were held during the President's visit to Miami on November 18, 1963.

Enclosed for FBI is photograph of Pedro Luis Diaz-Lanz, as well as lists of hotel employees of the Americana Hotel.

Very truly yours,

Ernest I. Aragon
Special Agent

APPROVED:

John A. Marshall
Special Agent in Charge